

22 (Amended) ~~The printing processor according to claim 21, wherein the print setting means controls the display to display the second window before the output means outputs the at least one of the originated print data and the set data to the printer.~~

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 are amended. No new matter is added.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. Request For Personal Interview

As discussed during the December 2 telephonic interview with Examiner Tran, in which a second personal interview was canceled by the Examiner, Applicant's representative expressly requested that a personal interview be granted upon the filing of this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Amendment in order to advance prosecution by discussing the various changes made by way of this Amendment. Although a previous interview was conducted back in June, another interview is believed necessary and proper because the June 20 Examiner interview summary stated that Applicant's pending claims overcame the outstanding rejection. However, this same rejection has now been reinstated.

Upon review of this response, please contact Applicant's representative to schedule a mutually convenient time and date for the interview if issues still remain.

II. Pending Claims 1-23 Define Patentable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,039,426 to Dobbs in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,528 to Ohtsuka et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the December 2 personal interview, various claims are amended to clarify the invention and further distinguish from applied Dobbs and Ohtsuka.

The claimed invention is directed to a printing process and printing controller in which it is easier to check or change current printer settings before printing through various window screens. One particularly relevant printer setting is that of which output tray (discharger) is to be selected for output from the printer when multiple trays are available. In the past, it has been extremely cumbersome to access such information prior to printing without many user steps.

However, with the claimed invention, a first window (such as the one in Fig. 3) is displayed indicating a set data for a printer to be confirmed or changed by a user (based on a predetermined operator operation). Based on a setting set by the user on the first window, a second window (such as the one in Fig. 5) is displayed indicating at least part of the set data to be confirmed or changed by the user, with the at least part of the set data being stored in a storage region. For example, main set data can be stored in print setting storage region 14 and selection of trays can be stored in special setting storage region 16 (see Fig. 2). The displaying step may be executed in accordance with a print setting program. Moreover, both the first and second windows can display an output bin (discharger) being selected. Then, at least one of print data necessary for printing and control data necessary for controlling the printer are originated based on the set data previously stored in the storage region. By being able to display at least part of the set data on the display in the first and second windows prior to printing, a user is able to check the set data before printing begins. Thus, for example, a user can verify that a correct output bin or tray has been selected for output.

Independent claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify that at least first and second windows are displayed. In particular, a first window is displayed indicating a set data for the printer to be confirmed or changed by a user. The second window is displayed based on settings on the first window and includes at least part of the set data. The at least part of the set data is stored in a storage region. After display and confirmation, print

data and/or control data is sent to the printer. Dependent claims 4-7, 12, 14-16 and 18 further add that the printer comprises a plurality of dischargers (and that this information is displayed on the first and second windows).

None of the cited references show such features. As admitted in the Office Action, Dobbs fails to explicitly teach displaying a window on which a user confirms or changes set data for the printer. Additionally, it is admitted that Dobbs fails to teach displaying by control means at least part of the set data before the print data or control data is originated. For these and other features, the Office Action relies on Ohtsuka. However, for the following reasons, Ohtsuka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Dobbs with respect to each of independent claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20. Ohtsuka also fails to teach display of a first window and then display of a second separate window based on a setting in the first window as claimed. Moreover, Ohtsuka fails to teach that the first and second windows include at least part of a set data for a printer.

As even if combined the combination fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20, these claims and the claims dependent therefrom cannot be rendered obvious from the applied art.

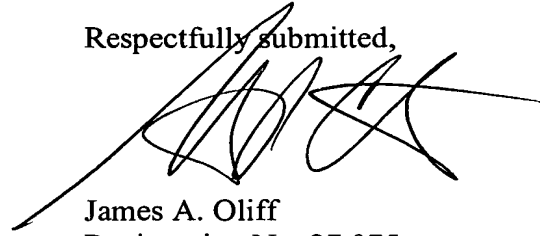
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below to

discuss and is expressly requested to grant another personal interview so that any remaining issues can be resolved expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Amended) A printing process for a printer, the process comprising the steps of:

displaying a first window on a display, the first window indicating a set data for the printer, to be confirmed or changed by a user on which a user confirms or changes a set data for the printer on a display based on a setting which is settable by the user for displaying the window;

displaying a second window different from the first window on the display based on a setting set by the user on the first window, the second window indicating at least part of the set data, to be confirmed or changed by the user, the at least part of the set data being stored in a storage region;

then, originating at least one of print data necessary for printing by the printer and control data necessary for controlling the printer, the control data being originated on the basis of the at least part of the set data previously stored in a the storage region; and

outputting at least one of the originated print data and the confirmed or changed set originated control data to the printer.

2. (Amended) The process defined in claim 1, wherein the displaying step of the second window is executed in accordance with a print setting program, an instruction for starting the program being stored in the set data.

3. (Amended) The process defined in claim 1, and further comprising a step of updating the second window, based on the confirmed or changed set data, displayed on the display when the at least part of the set data is changed by the user.

4. (Amended) The process defined in claim 1, wherein the printer has a plurality of discharge positions and can discharge a printer paper to a discharge position specified previously; the at least part of the confirmed or changed set data includes the discharge positions; the specified discharge position is displayed on the second window display; the originated control data includes the data which represent the discharge positions; and the control data is outputted to the printer prior to the print data.

5. (Amended) The process defined in claim 4, wherein the displaying step of the second window involves changing the discharge position into another discharge position and updating the changed discharge position.

6. (Amended) The process defined in claim 4, wherein the displaying step of the second window involves displaying the plurality of discharge positions of the printer on the display.

7. (Amended) The process defined in claim 4, wherein the displaying step of the second window further includes confirming whether the discharge position has been updated after the specified discharge position is displayed on the display.

9. (Amended) A printing process for a printer, the process comprising the steps of:

displaying a first window on a display, the first window indicating a set data for the printer, to be confirmed or changed by a user;

displaying a second window different from the first window on the display based on a setting set by the user on the first window, the second window indicating at least part of the set data, to be confirmed or changed by the user, the at least part of the set data being stored in a storage region;

~~displaying a window on which a user confirms or changes a set data previously stored in a memory of the printer on a display based on a setting which is settable by the user for displaying the window;~~

then, outputting to the printer, print data for printing by the printer and control data for controlling the printer, the control data including being derived from the at least part of the set data which has been confirmed ~~confirm~~ or changed by the user ~~set data~~.

10. (Amended) A printing processor for a printer, the processor comprising:

a memory;

print data originating means for originating print data necessary for printing by the printer;

control data origination means for originating, on the basis of set data stored previously in the memory, control data ~~necessary~~ for controlling the printer;

output means for outputting at least one of the originated print data and the set data to the printer;

a display for displaying a first window which indicates the set data for being confirmed or changed by a user, and a second window which is different from the first window and indicates at least part of the set data for being confirmed or changed by the user;

a setting means for setting to display a the second ~~window on which the user can confirm or change at least part of the set data for the printer;~~ and

control means for controlling the display so as to display the second window on the display based on the setting set by the setting means before the print data or the control data originated.

16. (Amended) The processor defined in claim 12, wherein the plurality of dischargers are shown on the second window ~~display~~.

17. (Amended) A printing system comprising:

a printing unit;

a memory;

print data originating means for originating print data necessary for printing by the printing unit;

control data origination means for originating, on the basis of set data stored previously in the memory, control data necessary for controlling the printing unit;

output means for outputting at least one of the originated print data and the set data to the printing unit;

a display for displaying a first window which indicates the set data for being confirmed or changed by a user, and a second window which is different from the first window and indicates at least part of the set data for being confirmed or changed by the user;

a setting means for setting to display a the second window ~~on which the user can confirm or change at least part of the set data;~~ and

control means connected to the printing unit, the display and memory for controlling the display so as to display the second window on the display based on the setting set by the setting means before the print data or the control data originated.

19. (Amended) A recording medium in which a printer driver program is recorded, the program causing a computer to execute the steps of:

displaying a first window on a display, the first window indicating a set data for the printer, to be confirmed or changed by a user ~~on which a user confirms or changes a set data for the printer on a display based on a setting which is settable by the user for displaying the window;~~

displaying a second window different from the first window on the display based on a setting set by the user on the first window, the second window indicating at least

part of the set data, to be confirmed or changed by the user, the at least part of the set data being stored in a storage region;

originating at least one of print data necessary for printing by the printer and control data ~~necessary~~ for controlling the printer, the control data being originated on the basis of the at least part of the set data stored in advance in a the storage region; and

outputting at least one of the originated print data and the ~~confirmed or changed set-originated control data~~ to the printer.

20. (Amended) A printing processor which is connected to a printer, ~~a display and a memory and a display for displaying a first window indicating set data of the printer, which is stored in the memory,~~ the processor comprising:

a printer driver for driving the printer and setting the set data of the printer, ~~which is stored in the memory;~~

print setting means for setting at least part of the set data and controlling the display to display a second window which is different from the first window and indicates the at least part of the set data;

updating means for updating the at least part of the set data stored in the memory through the printer driver or the print setting means; and

controlling means for controlling the print setting means such that the display displays on the second window the updated-at least part of the set data updated by the updating means, when the at least part of the set data has been updated through the printer driver,

wherein the first and second windows are confirmable and changeable windows by a printer user.

22. (Amended) The printing processor according to claim 21, wherein the print setting means controls the display to display the second window ~~part of the set data before the~~

output means outputs the at least one of the originated print data and the set data to the printer.